



**March 19, 2010**

**Senator Gayle S. Slossberg, Co-Chair  
Representative James F. Spallone, Co-Chair  
Members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee**

**Testimony Regarding Senate Bill No. 473, AAC REDUCTIONS TO STATE CONTRACTS**

I am Rose Alma Senatore, Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss Senate Bill No. 473, An Act Concerning Reductions to State Contracts.

Private providers contract with numerous state agencies for the provision of services. Generally, funds are expected to be expended in the designated line items. However, the state agencies do allow for budget revisions in various line items during the contract year. This has worked effectively for us during "ordinary" fiscal times and is appropriate for program oversight.

However, when and if the proposed budget rescissions or legislatively mandated reductions occur within the fiscal year of the contract, agencies need the flexibility to address immediately the amount and timing of those adjustments without concern that approval may be denied or delayed.

Budget rescission decisions are made after a contract begins and well into the program year. The adjustments required are compacted into a shorter time period – thereby, requiring more extensive revisions that not-for-profits need confidence will not be rejected. For example, a 5% rescission in March is a 20% budget adjustment over the remaining three months. Agencies need to have the flexibility to address such large changes.

I have attached a letter that we received on Wednesday (March 3) which clearly demonstrates the issue. We received notice of a 5% rescission for the Nurturing Families Program, which is equal to 20% in the last quarter. We will have to submit a revised program budget for the next three months for three locations. The letter indicates that proposals which impact program services will require a narrative and will be subject to approval by the department.

We are asking your support of Senate Bill No. 473. This bill would allow private providers to transfer monies among line items in their approved operating budgets up to the aggregate amount of such reduction when the reduction is 3% of the contract or greater without the prior approval of the state departments.

Thank you for your time and support of this bill.

January 11, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am writing this letter on behalf of the Children's Trust Fund Nurturing Families Network Program. The NFN Home Visiting Program was introduced to me while pregnant with my daughter. As a first time mom I received weekly in-home visits where I was introduced to many prenatal activities such as: videos on the growth of my baby in the womb all the way to the process up to birth. I realized that you can become very connected with your baby while pregnant. I was thinking about breastfeeding but was scared but my home visitor gave me all the facts and educational information to help me release my anxieties. My Home Visitor was available to talk when I need it some one. She provided me with rides to my prenatal appointments, educational information and resources available in the community. I felt like if I had a step-mom supporting me and my baby.

My daughter is now four months and with out The Nurturing Families Network Home Visiting Program being a parent would have been challenging. I have been well educated and provided with many interesting facts to help me be the best mom ever. I strongly support The Children's Trust Fund Nurturing Families Network Program and I hope that you provide your full support. Many new 1st time mothers can have an opportunity to enhance their parenting skills and benefit from such educational and supportive program in their homes.

Sincerely,